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DFD-2641-59

21 April 1959

\*USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File\*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directorate of Plans  
Deputy Director for War Plans  
Headquarters, USAF

SUBJECT : IRAN and Modification of L-20 Aircraft

1. Reference is made to our memorandum to you, subject as above, dated 20 March 1959, and your reply of 9 April 1959.

2. This office is in complete accord with your comments annotated in paragraph 4 of your correspondence. The advantages of a new aircraft over an older model are unquestionable. Appointments in a U-3 aircraft as an example, under normal circumstances, make it much more desirable. Operational training and support problems, evolving around the introduction of an entirely different type aircraft into the inventory of a country which has been provided with L-20's under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program, are considered prohibitive. Furnishing an L-20 presently available versus a new L-20 was considered. Available funds approved by the Deputy Director for this project in the amount of \$25,000, coupled with security cover were the limiting factors. Our best estimate of costs involved approximate \$50,000 difference between a new and an already available aircraft including required ancillary communications equipment.

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3. In view of the above, it is requested that action continue in accordance with our original request. Detailed information required in your latest memorandum should be directed to Middletown Air Materiel Area in that it is understood that they are the Prime Depot on the L-20. This should place them in the best position of knowing the normal requirements for aircraft furnished under MDAP. In addition to the equipment which was furnished, we require the following if not already included:

- a. Install internal wing-tip tanks.
- b. Provide steerable tail wheel.
- c. Institute curtains, carpeting, commercial-type headliner and wainscoat, and airline seats.
- d. Paint olive drab.

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4. Assuming that the foregoing meets with your approval [redacted] 7170th Support Group, or one of his representatives will monitor this program per your request.

5. Due to a pressing political situation, it is re-emphasized that time is of the essence in this case and expedited action is imperative to assure effectiveness.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

BY: [redacted]

[redacted]  
Colonel, USAF

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MB/DPD-DD/P:TAD:ms (21 April 1959)

Dist: 0 & 1 - Addressee

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